PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE E/3 Falls Road, 1600' S of the c/1 of Ivy Hill Road (1 and 2 Deep Run Court) 8th Election District 3rd Councilmanic District

\* DEPUTY ZONING COMMISSIONER \* OF BALTIMORE COUNTY \* Case No. 90-119-A

The Pines at Deep Run Ltd. Part. Petitioners

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Petitioners herein request a variance to permit a maximum 243 sq.ft. wall on each side of the entrance to the subject si with the name "The Pines At Deep Run" placed thereon with 12.8 sq.ft. lettering in lieu cf the maximum permitted 15 sq.ft. total sign area as more particularly described in Petitioner's Exhibit 1

The Petitioners, by Ronald C. Schaftel, General Partner, appeared, testified, and was represented by New n A. Williams, Esquire. Also appearing on behalf of the Petition was A. D. McComas, adjoining property owner, and Dwight Little, Engineer with W. Duvall and Associates, Inc. There were no Protestants.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, known as 1 and 2 Deep Rur Court, is located at the entrance to the subdivision known as The Pines At Deep Run, which consists of 37.61 acres, zoned R.C.5, and has been subdivided into 12 building lots varying from 1 acre to 8 acres. Petitioners have constructed two brick and limestone retaining walls at the entrance to the site and are desirous of placing single-faced, nonilluminated, simulated brass lettering to identify the name of the subdivision on each wall. While the size of the brick wall exceeds 243 sq.ft., the lettering will not exceed 12.8 sq.ft. total.

In support of Petitioners' request, Petitioners submitted letters from numerous ad pining property owners, both residing within the develop-

ent and in the surrounding area. Testimony indicated that the proposed entrance signs, in addition to being an enhancement to the area, will help travelers and emergency vehicles identify the development, thus increasing public safety and welfare. Further, the granting of the variance will not result in any detriment to the health, safety and general welfare of the

Am area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning regulations would cause practical difficulty to the Petitioner and McLean v. Soley, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practica, difficulty for an area w ,ance, the Petitioner must meet the following:

> 1) whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily

2) whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the district or whether a lesser relaxation than that applied for would give substantial relief; and

3) whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safety and welfare secured.

Anderson v. Ed. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28

It is clear from the testimony that if the variance is granted, such use as proposed would not be contrary to the spirit of the B.C.Z.R. and would not result in substantial detriment to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

We, the undersigned are all owners of residences surrounding the

We understand that the developer wishes to have the name of the development appear on the brick wall in front of the development

which faces in a northerly direction on Falls Road and that the

sign will be identical to the existing sign which now faces in a

We have no objection what so ever to your granting the developer

oligias McComas

12337 Falls Road

12405 Falls Road

ZONING OFFICE

W. DUVALL & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Engineers • Surveyors • Land Planners

June 13, 1989 Zoning Description Lot No. 12 "The Pines at Deep Run" Plat Book SN 60 Folio 49 Lot No. 1 "The Pines at Deep Run" Plat Book 17.1. 59 Folio 128

BEGINNING for the first 1600 feet southeasterly from Falls Enad and luy Hill Road at the southeast intersection of Falls Road, future 80 foot Right of Way, and Deep Run Court, 50 foot Right of Way, as shown on a plat entitled "Resubdivision of Lot 10 The Pines at Deep Run" as recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book S.H. 60 Folio 49, said point being designated as coordinate No. 28; thence binding on the southernmost Right of Way line of Deen Run Court, North 38 degrees 14 minutes 09 seconds East 13.67 feet; thence by a curve to the right laving a radius of 642.82 feet and an arc length 103.23 feet being subtended by a chord bearing South 89 degrees 44 minutes 16 seconds East 103.12 feet; thence South 85 degrees 08 minutes 14 seconds East 319.47 feet; thence leaving said court, South 08 degrees 07 minutes 11 seconds West 174.89 feet; thence North 81 degrees 52 minutes 49 seconds West 388.17 feet to the easternmost Right of Way line of Falls Road; the ce binding thereon, North 08 degrees 47 minutes 58 seconds East 136.74 feet to the point of beginning.

CONTAINING 1.530 acres, more or less.

Also beig known as No. 1 Deep Run Court.

BEGINNING for the second 1530 feet southeasterly from Falls Road and lvy Hill Read at the northwast intersection of Fails Road, future 80 foot Right of Way, and Deep Run Court, 50 foot Right of Way, as shown on a plat entitled "The Pines at Deep Run" as recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book S.M. 59 Felio 128, said point No. 29; thence binding on the northernmost Right of Way line of Deep Run Court, South 51 degrees 56 minutes. 18 seconds East 14.62 feet; thence South 85 degrees 08 minutes 14 seconds East 220,87 feet; thence North 04 degrees 23 minutes 30 seconds East 182.74 feet; thence North 85 degrees 38 minutes 30 seconds West 364,60 feet; thence South 05 degrees 32 minutes 44 seconds West 100.87 feet; thence South 08 degrees 47 minutes 58 seconds East 82.76 fest to the point of beginning.

CONTAINING 1.52 scres, sore or less

22 W. AUEGNEN, I AVE 5-300 12905 PALLS PD COCKEYSVILLE A.O.MECOMAS W. Durall + Hase E. 530 6. Jappa 24, 21204 DWIGHT LITTLE

September 25, 1989

Baltimore County Toning Commissioner Office of Planning and Toning Towson, Maryland 21204

September 27, 1989

Mr. J. Robert Haines

Dear Mr. Haines:

southerly direction.

Sincerely,

12325 Falls Road

the zoning variance requested.

Towson, Maryland 21204

Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner

development known as "The Pines at Deep Run".

Office of Planning and Zoning

I am currently building a house at 3 Deep Run Court in "The Fines at Deep Run' subdivision and I am very much in favor of having the name of the subdivision appear on the 2 brick walls that face each other at the entrance to The Pines at Deep Run.

والمناف المعالية والمستعدي والمستعد والمناور والمناف والمناف والمناف والمناف والمنافع والمناف

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the variance requested should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Deputy Zoning Commissioner for

Baltimore County this 100 day of October, 1989 that the Petition for Zoning Variang to permit a maximum 243 sq.ft. wall on each side of the entrance to the subject site with the name "The Pines At Deep Run" placed thereon with 12.8 sq.ft. lettering in lieu of the maximum permitted 15 sq.ft. total sign area, in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1, be and is hereby GRANTED, subject, however, to the following restriction:

> 1) The Petitioners may apply for their sign permit and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; Lowever. Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original & dition.

> > ( M Nks ferowin ANN M. NASTAROWICZ Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County

Mr. J. Robert Haines Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning & Zoning Towson, MD 21204

I am the owner and builder of a luxury residence located in the subdivision known as "The Pines at Deep Run".

Potential buyers of this home have missed the turn into the subdivision from Falls Road when proceeding on Falls Road in a southerly direction.

If the variance were granted permitting a sign to be installed on the brick wall that faces north on Falls Road, I don't think anyone would have difficulty in locating this subdivision.

Sincerely.

cc: Mr. Ronald Schaftel

PETIT NITOR ZONING VANANCE

TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY: The undersigned, legal own; r(z) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached herete and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a To permit a maximum 245 square foot wall on

each side of the entrance with the name "THE PINES AT DEEP RUM" with 12.8 square foot of lettering in lies of 15 square foot maximum of total sign area

of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County; for the following reasons: (indicate hardship or practical difficulty) 1)Traffic traveling in a southerly direction on Falls Road is unable to

identify the name of the development. 2) The aesthetics of the brick walls would be enhanced by the inclusion of sinage. 3) It would be in the best interests of the purchasers of lots at "The Pines at Deep Run" to have identification signs facing north and south rather than simply a northerly direction.

4) Signage facing in both directions would enable police & fire departments responding to emergencies to better identify the development & enhance public safety & welfare
Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations.

I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Variance advertising, posting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law For Baltimore County. I/We do solemnly ceclare and affirm

under the penalties of perjury, that I/we are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Petition. Legal Owner(s):
The Pines at Deep Run Limited Partnership
Ronald O. Schaftel General Partner Contract Purchaser: (Type or Print Name (Type or Print Name) Attorney for Petitioner: 22 West Allegheny Avenue Philip Z. Altfeld Suite 300 (Type or Print Name) City and State 22 West Allegheny Ave. Suite 300 tract purchaser or representative to be contacted W. Duvall & Associates, Inc. Sandra Norris Towson, Maryland 21204

19\_2.Z., that the subject matter of this petition be advertised, 

(301) 752-6100

September 21, 1989

Hon. J. Robert Haines Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning & Zoning

Towson, Maryland 21204 Re: The Pines at Deep Run

Dear Mr. Haines: I am the owner of lot #12 known as 1 Deep Run Court in the

subdivision known as "The Pines at Deep Run".

I readily understand why the developer is requesting a variance from Baltimore County, Maryland to install a sign depicting the name of the development on the southerly brick entrance wall.

Traffic heading South on Falls Road would be unable to identify this development without an aid and I respectfully urgo you to grant the zoning variance.

Stuart R. Rombr

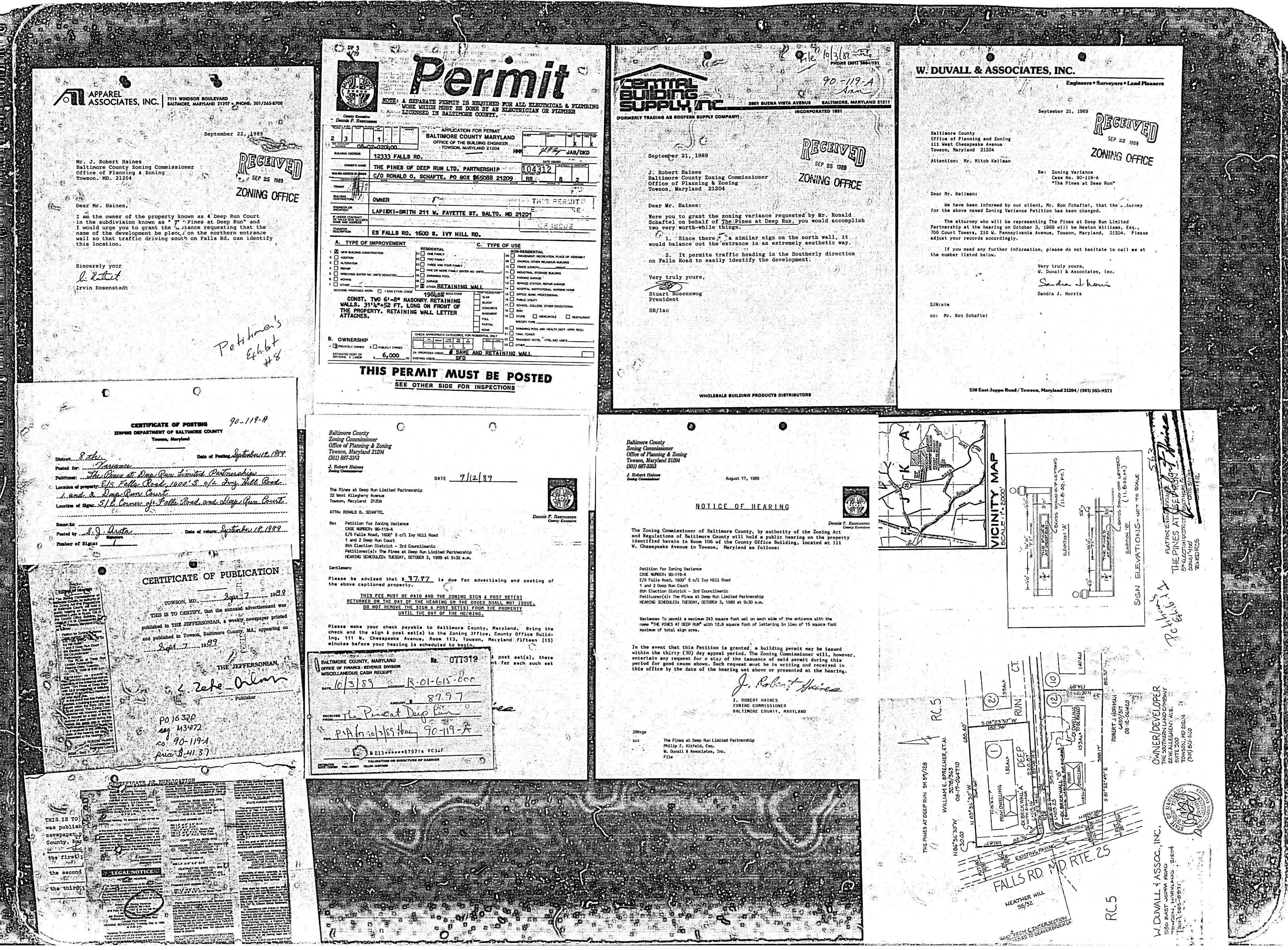
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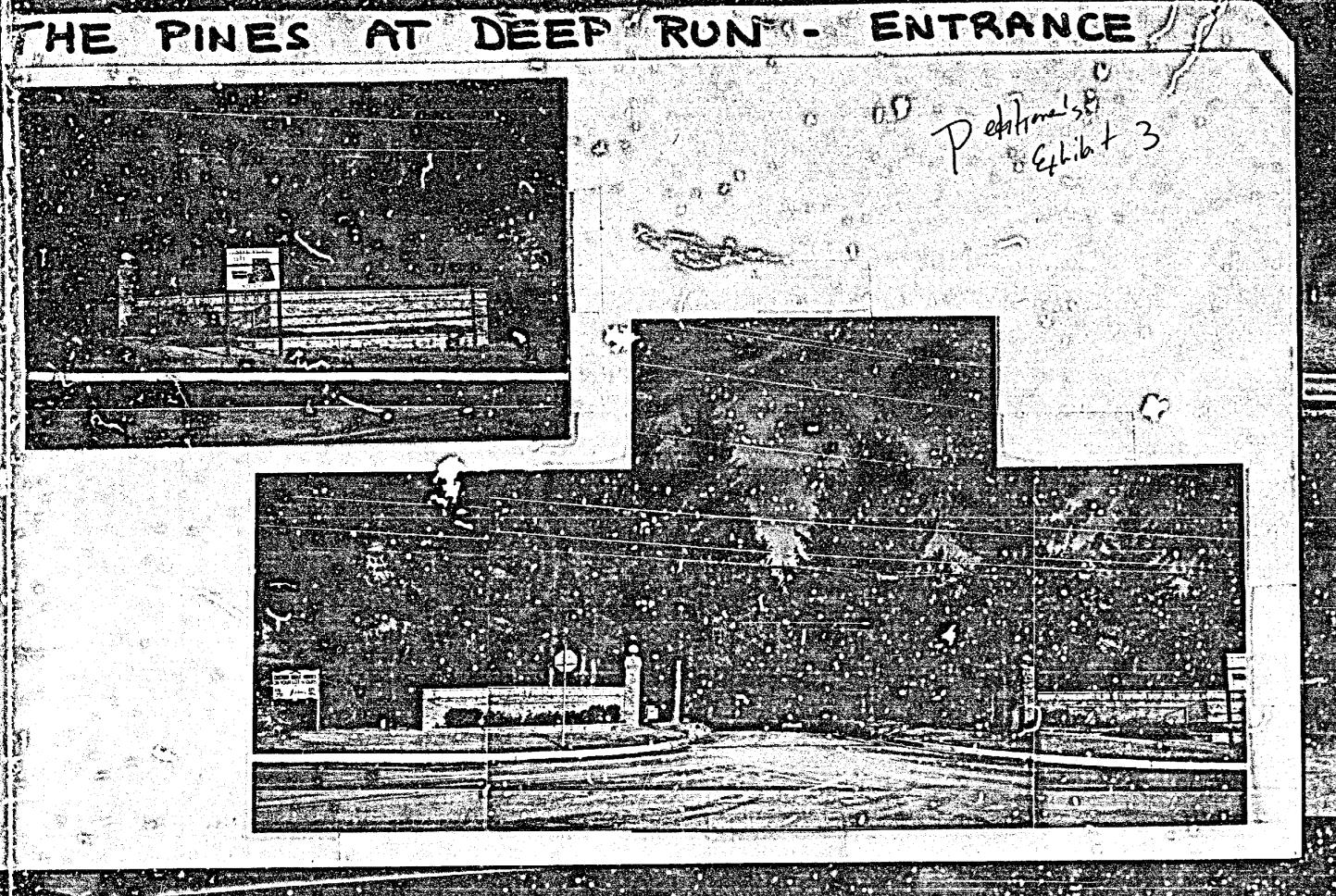
cc: Ronald Schaftel

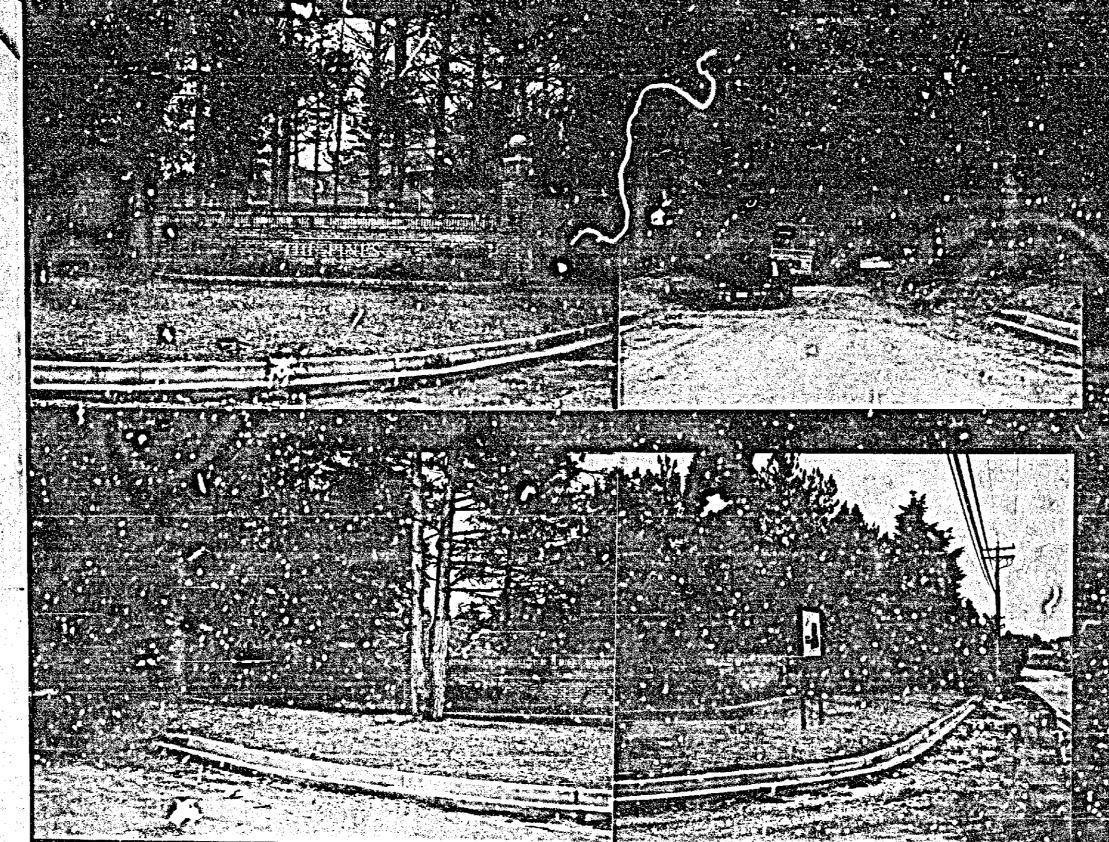
530 East Joppa Road 583-9571 ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this

TYDINGS & ROSENBERG 201 NORTH CHARLES STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

ZONING OFFICE

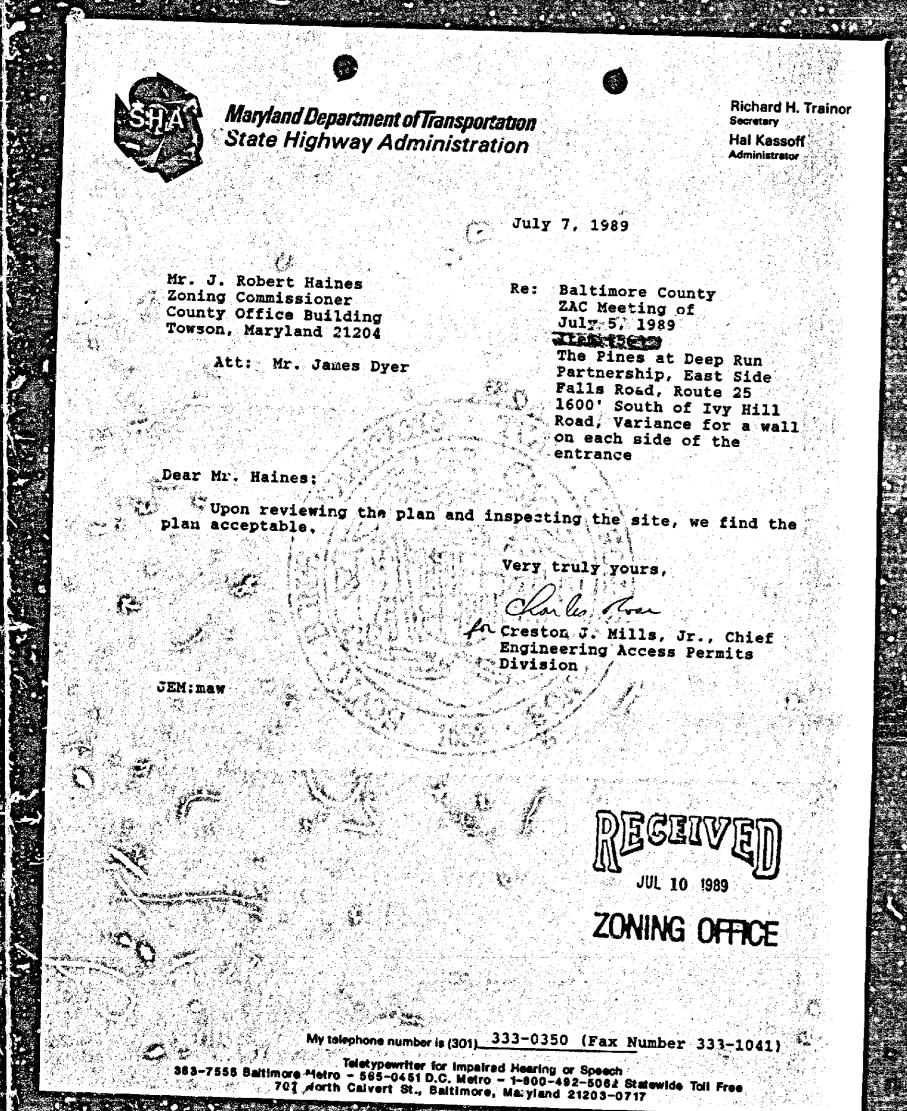


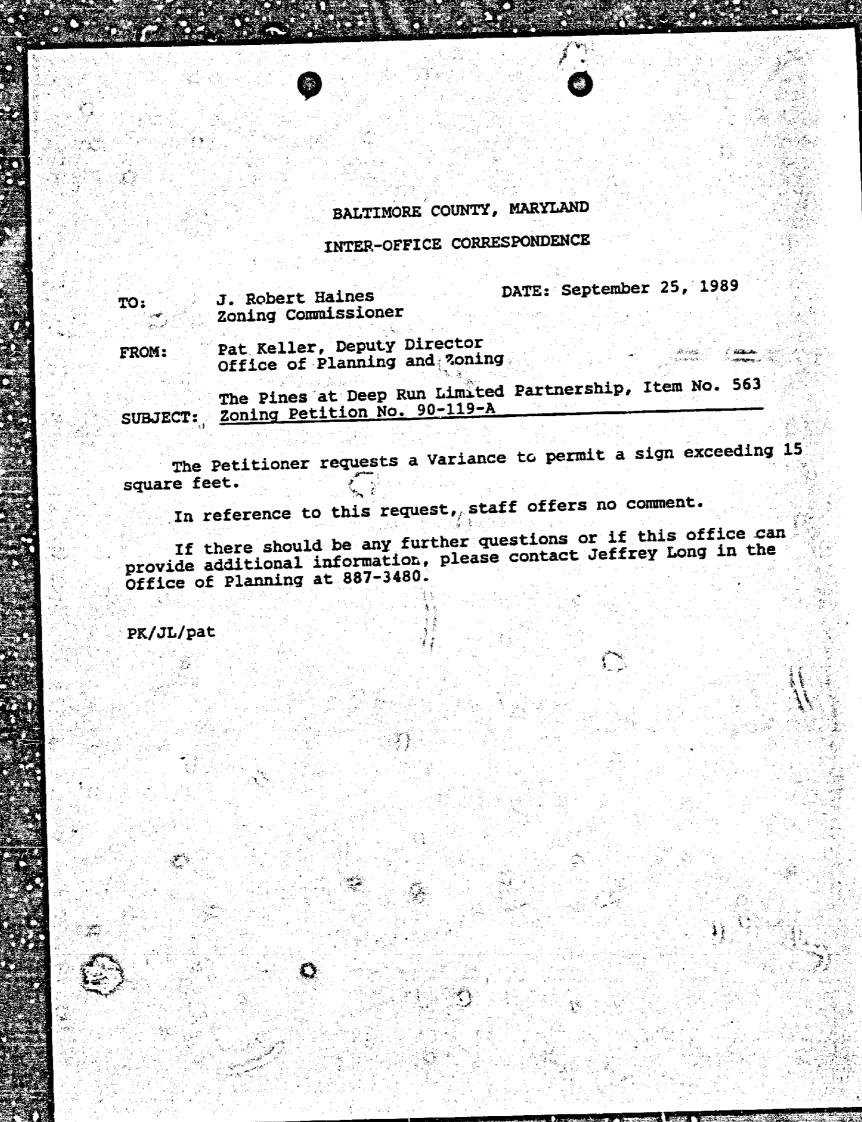


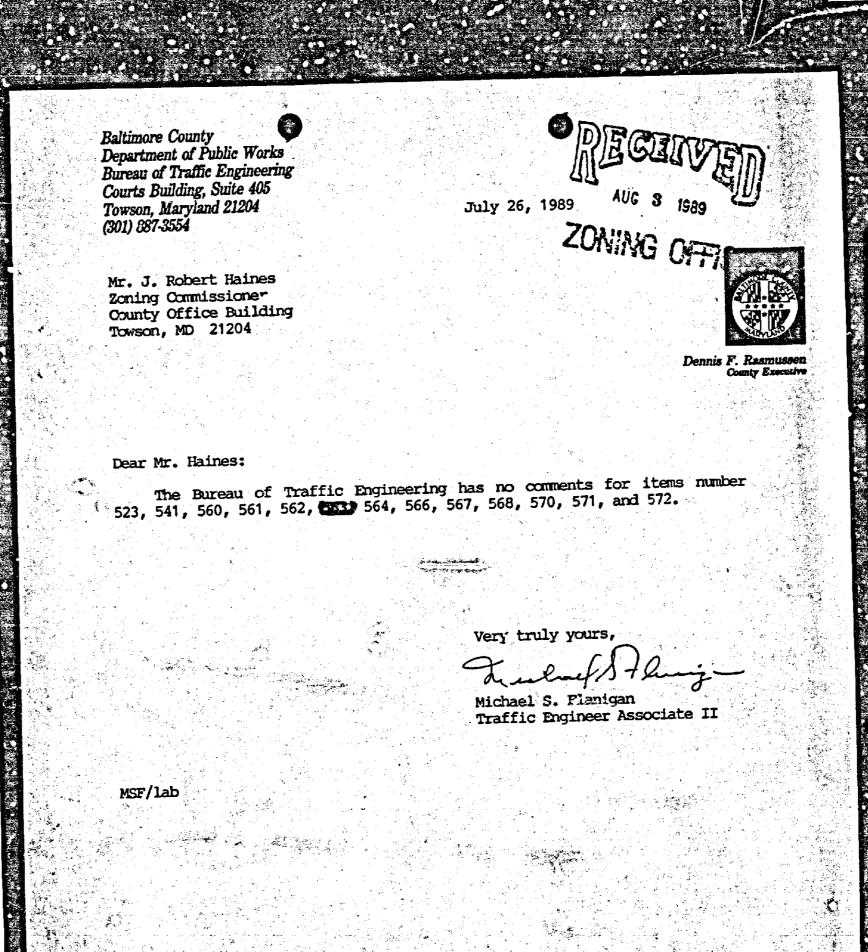


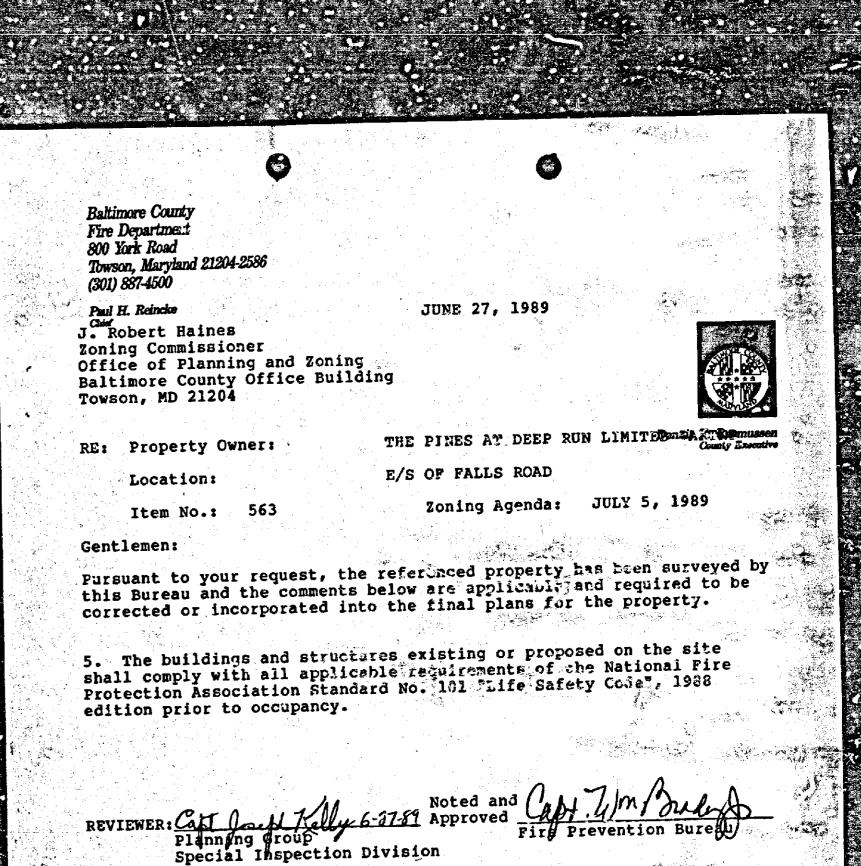
## The Pines by Deep Run:





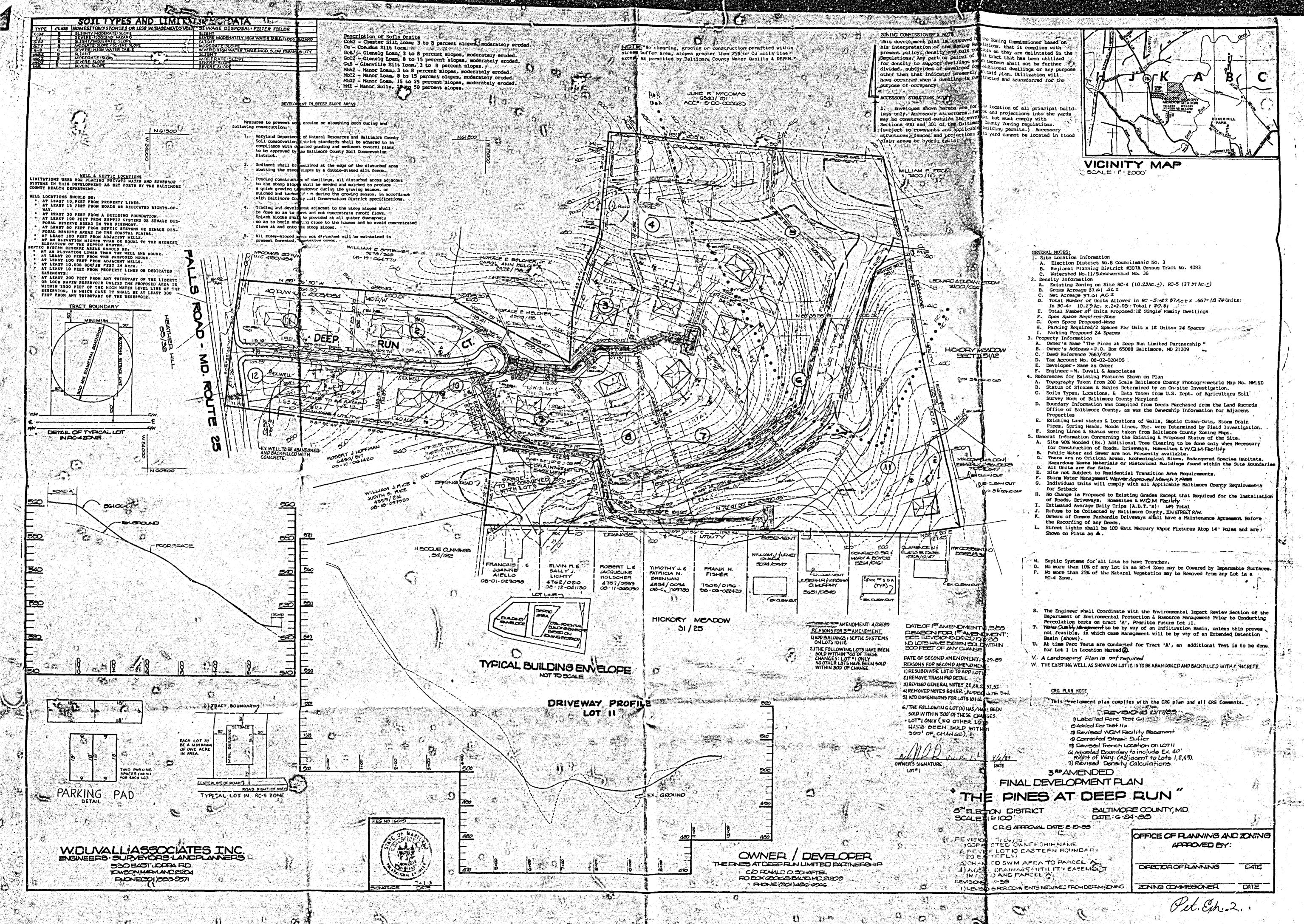






JK/kek

Fire Prevention Bure:



10/1/91 - Circuit Court AFFIRMED Board of Appeals
90-120-SPH (As) and Homeowners Assoc.)
Hon, John F. Farr, II

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASHLAND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION A SPECIAL HEARING ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER ASHLAND & PAPER MILL RDS.

8th ELECTION DISTRICT

3rd COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

\* IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

SOUTHEAST CORNER \* FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
R MILL RDS. \* CASE NO. 90 CG 3013
IC DISTRICT \* \* \* \* \* \*

## ORDER OF COURT AFFIRMING BOARD OF APPEALS

It is ORDERED by the Circuit Court for Baltimore County this day of September, 1991 that the decision of the Board of Appeals dated June 27, 1990 granting the Petition For Special Hearing to approve a 2nd Amendment to the development plan of Ashland located in the Texas/Cockeysville Section of Baltimore County is affirmed. The Petition was sought by the Ashland Homeowners' Association to bring into compliance the development plan with the plat for the site and the true property lines. Opposition by Diane Golden (Golden), the owner of Lot One, Block A, in the Ashland subdivision, whose lot is affected by the change, is based on her allegations:

- 1. The Amendment is violative of Section 1B01.3A1 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. (BCZR), and
- That she relied upon representatives of the developer and her review of the initial final development plan, and if the 2nd Amendment is allowed, she will be deprived of property rights.

of Ashland now shows a distance of six (6) feet from a garage on Golden's property to the end of her property line as opposed to a distance of fifteen (15) feet as shown on the plat initially filed.

FILED OCT 1 1991

There is no question but that the recorded plat, from which the Golden lot was deeded to her, the location survey and the deed metes and bounds reference all show the distance to be 15 feet.

## (Reliance and Misrepresentation)

There was conflicting evidence on the issue of what representations were made by the Developer, what Golden actually reviewed at the time she purchased her lot and how surprised she was to find there may be only a 6 foot setback building line as opposed to a fifteen foot distance between her property line and the garage.

Against the assertion by Golden that she relied on the designation of a 15 foot distance between a garage located on her property and her property line by reviewing the Development Plat and through the representations of the Developer, was the testimony of Jeanette Tansey (Tansey), a landscape architect, who helped prepare the Final Development Plan for Ashland. Tansey recounted a telephone conversation she had with Golden in April, 1989:

- A. ... she stated that she owned approximately 6 feet from the edge of her garage to her property line which was not sufficient property to screen her property from the adjacent homeowners.
- A. ... she said that her house location survey and the record plat, although neither one of them actually had a dimension between her garage and the property line, they looked like they scaled about six feet, and that when she had the surveyor who had done the surveying go out there, stake out the line for her to confirm it, she said it looked like less, and she was concerned.

It was as a result of that phone call from Golden that Tansey discovered the error in the Final Development Plan. She testified that she subsequently talked to Golden telling her of the discrepancy, "and I needed to go through all documents and find out what had happened, and that I would need a copy of her house location survey so we could see what was the line correctly staked."

- Q. In your conversation with Ms. Golden, did she indicate to you that she had prior familiarity with the final development plan?
- A. No, she didn't. When I mentioned it, the discrepancy on the Final Development Plan, she had asked me as to what that plan was. And I told her she should have seen it hanging in the trailer. And it didn't seem she knew anything about it.

Commenting on their responsibility to observe the demeanor of the witnesses, the Board of Appeals, though the conclusion should have been more directly stated, concluded in its written opinion that this factual dispute was resolved against Golden.

(The Discrepancy Resolved)

The Discrepancy Resolved)

BCZR 1B01.3A1 provides:

- A. <u>Development Plans</u>
- Purpose. This paragraph is intended:
  - a. To provide for the disclosure of development plans to prospective residents and to protect those who have made decisions based on such plans from inappropriate changes therein; and
  - b. To provide for review of residentialdevelopment plans to determine whether they comply with these regulations and with standards and policies adopted pursuant to the authority of Section 504.

The Developer of Ashland prepared plans for approval of the development including a Final Development Plan, containing two sheets and a record plat, all approved by Baltimore County. Page one of the Final Development Plan showed a distance of 15 feet from a garage structure existing on the Golden property and her property line. Page two of the Final Development Plan showed the metes and bounds of the lots and specifically showed a 6 foot dimension between the garage and the property line.

Initial plans on Ashland were the subject of a Petition for Special Hearing before the Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County which was filed to permit the non-conforming setbacks of older homes which did not comply with zoning regulations in effect. The petition in that zoning case was granted and the Final Development Plan and record plat were amended to show the approvals, i.e. The First Amended Final Development Plan and Amended Plat 1 of Ashland.

Edmund Haile, a principal of Daft-McCune-Walker, Developer's engineers, to inquire about purchasing additional property from the Ashland Homeowners Association. At that time, Jeanette Tansey of Daft-McCune-Walker reviewed the project drawings and discovered the discrepancy between page one and page two of the First Amended Final Development Plan as it related to the distance between Golden's property line and her garage structure.

A Second Amended Final Development Plan was proposed to correct the discrepancy in the distance of the property line and a Petition for Special Hearing was filed by Ashland Homeowners

Association. The petition was granted by the Zoning Commissioner for

Baltimore County and appealed by Golden to the County Board of Appeals. Upon receiving oral testimony and written exhibits, the Board of Appeals granted the approval for the Petition for Special Hearing to amend the development plan as requested. A distance of six feet was there shown between the Golden garage structure and her property line. Golden appealed to this court.

- She claims the Board erred as follows:
- (a) In its determination of the distance between Colden's garage building and the nearest property line;
- (b) In finding that the 15 foot distance shown on the final development plan between the property line and the garage was a drafting error;
- (c) In finding that the plat, deed description and location survey all clearly show a 6 feet distance from the building to the property line;
- (d) In finding that obtaining a setback variance would solve Golden's problem and that the variance would be easily obtained;
- (e) In failing to find that Golden would be harmed by the petition if granted;
- (f) In finding that Golden had an obligation to make certain diligent efforts beyond that which is required by the statute.

Colden concludes that the error is on sheet 2 of the Final Development Plan and therefore the plat and the deed must be corrected to conform with sheet 1; so there will be a fifteen foot distance between her garage structure and her property line.

At the Board of Appeals hearing, Tansey, a landscape architect, who participated in the preparation of the Final Development Plan testified that she was the one who discovered what she believed to be an error on sheet 1 of the Final Development

Plan. She described sheet 1 as showing a 15 feet setback between the garage and propert line on Golden's lot whereas sheet 2, which is a detail for the record plat, shows the exact bearings and distance on the property line, and a distance of 6 feet rather than 15 feet.

Tansey testified that the actual measured lineal distance at the site is about 6 feet. She explained that the purpose of the First Amended Final Development Plan was to make a change in lot lines on other lots and to add some notes about a variance.

As to an explanation of how the discrepancy occurred, Tansey testified:

The initial Final Development Plan had 15 feet on it and when the changes were made for the first Amendment, that was not one of the things that was being changed, and obviously no one saw that there was a problem. So it was shown because no one thought there was any reason not to show it. No one realized there was a problem.

Edmond Haile (Haile), a professional engineer and expert land surveyor, employed by Developer's engineers, testified that the record plat is the document that is intended to describe the property to be conveyed. He testified that the proposed amendment is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations and is in accordance with the requirements of the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies. Haile explained that the Office of Zoning requires one plan which omits detailed property information and a second sheet which shows detailed property information (the same information that appeared on the record plat). Haile concluded that the 15 feet designation shown on sheet 1 of the Final Development Plan is a mistake.

Haile also testified that there is no distance stated in the deed but that the deed only refers to the lot lines. He related that sheet 2 of the Final Development Plan is the computation detail and it is not necessary that the Final Development Plan and the record plat conform exactly because the Final Development Plan is a guide to development. There is detail that is developed subsequent to the preparation of the Final Development Plan. Haile stated that the recorded plat is not consistent with the 15 feet scaled out on the First Amended Final Development Plan (sheet 1) but that the recorded plat is consistent with sheet 2 of the same document.

The Final Development Plan is not intended to be a conveyance and Haile testified that the deed actually conveying the property to Golden reflected the metes and bounds description on page two of the Final Development Plan. Therefore, the Petition requested was consistent with the Golden deed and the metes and boards description.

The issue on appeal is whether or not there was sufficient evidence before the Board of Appeals to make fairly debatable its approval of the application for approval of the Second Amended Final Development Plan.

The Board of Appeals determined,

In conducting our hearing, the Board is obviously afforded with the opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses before us and adjudge their credibility. Further, we are obligated to consider the merits of the Petition for Special Hearing in accordance with the standards of the BCZR and should not consider the present or proposed use for the property. After considering all of the evidence before us and applying these standards, we are persuaded that the Petition for Special Hearing should be granted. In our view, the nature of the amendment is to correct an obvious drafting error. Further, we are convinced that the Protestant had an opportunity had she

made further efforts as diligent as those she described to ascertain her true property line. The plat, location survey, and deed reference all clearly demonstrate the true boundary line between the Homeowners' Association open space and the Protestant's property. We may also favorably note Mr. Haile's testimony wherein he suggested that the property owner might obtain setback variances to solve her current dilemma. In view of the vast open space owned by the Homeowners' Association, this would seemingly be easily accomplished.

This court concludes, in reviewing the transcript of the testimony before the Board, that the Board's determination in approving the Second Amended Final Development Plan was at least fairly debatable and within the sound discretion of the Board.

In Storch v. Zoning Board of Howard County, 267 Md. 476,

298 A.2d 8 (1972), the Court cited the trial court oral opinion:

In reaching this conclusion, the court has taken into consideration all the testimony that is on the record and proper to be admitted. It does not ignore that something may be said in support of a different view. There are few questions which do not admit of argument, but something more than admissible controversy is required. Citing: <u>Lipsitz v. Parr</u>, 164 Md. 222, 232, 164 A. 743.

267 Md. at 482.

The scope of judicial review of decisions by administrative agencies is narrow, recognizing that the Board members have expertise in a particular area and ordinarily should be free to exercise their discretion in their area of expertise. Judicial review of administrative agencies is discussed in Mayor and Alderman, etc. v. Annapolis Waterfront, 284 Md. 383, 396 A.2d 1080,

[A]ccordingly, this Court adheres to the proposition that a reviewing court will not substitute its judgment for that of an administrative board where the issue is for that of an administrative board where the issue is fairly debatable and the record contains substantial evidence supporting the administrative decision (citations omitted).